The Caledonian Mercury.

Edinburgh, Thurſday, September 29, 1726.

From Miſt's Weekly Journal, Sept. 17.

To the AUTHOR.

SIR,

I Give you this Trouble on the Subject of an uſeful *Charity*, which concerns a whole Nation. I hope the Goodneſs of the Deſign will atone for my Miſtakes in point of Judgment.

A due Care of the Poor ſhews the Humanity and Wiſdom of a Kingdom: To alleviate the Diſtreſs, and prevent the Diſorders which Want produces in the Old, is to train up to profitable Labour their forlorn and abandoned Young. While Thouſands live in Rags and Idleneſs, Numbers can never be the Strength of a State. The common Peace ſtill muſt be infeſted, while ſome are puſh'd on by Neceſſity to ravage and haraſs their Neighbours for a daily Supply. Such Vermin may in part be ſuck'd up, but never extirpated by Work houſes: Nurs'd up in Ignorance and Sloth, even there they are loſt to all Thoughts of another Life, while the preſent is in ſome Meaſure relieved.

Social Works of this Kind are only to be carried on under the Countenance and Encouragement of publick Authority. The Maſter, the Tradeſman, the Church, the State in *England*, all feel the Advantage of Charity-ſchools and Liberalities to the Poor. Our Happineſs would be complete, were theſe as faithfully applied, as they are profuſely beſtowed. But 'tis amazing, that in this Reſpect no general Regulation has ever been made in the North Part of the Iſland, where there is ſo much *real or pretended* Piety. There indeed People throw in a Mite for the Poor as they go into Church, Part of which is generally applied by the Miniſter and his Aſſiſtants, for the Inſtruction of ſome of the Poor; but after they can read, ſometimes write, they are left to ſhift for themſelves: While the better Part of Chriſtian Humanity were to put them in a Way of gaining Bread, and of being uſeful to the Public. There too often Wealth and Power diſſpirit the Labourer, and creates Poverty: Superiors oppreſs the Penury of thoſe below them, nor have they Compaſſion to relieve whom their Severity has preſs'd down to Miſery. The Peace, the Liberty, and the Generoſity of the Government, gives that brave, active and hardy People, all Encouragement to Induſtry, would they be but pleaſed to recollect their Spirits, and exert an aſſiduous Application to their own Proſperity.

I take the Freedom to offer to the World ſome Reflections on a Method not only for more effectually inſtructing their Poor in the Principles of Morality and Chriſtian Religion but alſo for breeding them up to Service and Trades; that they may be provided with proper Hands for Labour, Crafts, and Manufactures of all Sorts. And I would fain hope, that amidſt ſo ingenious a People, ſome worthy Perſons of Intereſt and Capacity will take the Hint, and improve in *Execution* what I recommend in *Propoſal*.

The effectual Method to accompliſh ſo beneficial an Undertaking, is general and annual Contribution: People would be the more eaſily perſwaded into theſe, ſhould they find it ſo contrived, that the beſt Part of the Moneys was to be employed where it is raiſed, and the Adminiſtration of it in Hands of creditable Men of all Ranks. In the Beginning, perhaps the Novelty of the Thing and their own Diſtruſt, would make them ſhy and reſerved; but Time and Succeſs would render them free and open-handed. The Wiſdom of the Managers, publick Reports of their Conduct, and frequent Charity-diſcourſes, might facilitate the Matter, and at laſt overcome the Difficulty. But if, after all, their Bowels of Compaſſion ſhould be ſhut up, a neceſſary Tax would be juſtifiable, while the common Advantage muſt infinitly repay the Charge.

Here has ever been, I think, and never more than of late Years, a loud Complaint for want of Money in *N. Britain*. It is true, the Quality and better Sort of all Profeſſions now chuſe to ſettle in *England*; but if this Outcry be juſt, it ſeems more owing to the Want of Induſtry, or at leaſt an ill applied one, and an impotent Affectation of their Neighbours Luxury, than to the Soil and Situation of the Country. They were never ſuſpected to be deficient in point of Genius and Politeneſs in any Capacity; and that perhaps, is all their Pride can boaſt of. While other Countries are laid out with Art, and cultivated with Ingenuity, many beautiful fertile Tracts in that Climate ly naked, almoſt

as Nature produced them. The Plough and the Harrow torment the very Bowels of the Ground in such a Manner, that a Traveller may wonder, that by this Time she is not tired of bearing, and grown barren. Their Grain, their Grass, rises open and exposed, because the vertuous Ancestors of the present Race of Men sheltered the Fields by no Inclosures. The Farmer's Toil is an incessant, but unprofitable Drudgery, because Custom confirms them in their false Steps, which the Tyranny of their Lords, and the Ignorance of their Predecessors, begun.

There is among them a Society of well-accomplished Gentlemen, who study to reform the prevailing rural Errors, and to *Improve* their Husbandry. Where can they find Peasants so fit for their Purpose as the Poor, when bred up to a more rational kind of Culture?

The Clergy are ever loud on the Vices of the People; but let them promote not only the Instruction, but the Labour of those whom Nature seems to have deprived of the Means of honest Bread; and all the pernicious Train that follows Ignorance, Sloth, and Want, will in some Measure be abated. They are vigilant in *propogating* Knowlege in the Highlands, nor are they unmindful of the Poor whom Providence has thrown among them in the low Country; but do not their Bodies need their Care? Breed them to Work and they will feed themselves, help to maintain those of the same unhappy Birth, repay their Benefactors, and enrich their Country.

It is indeed astonishing, that in a Christian Society, the Mountains should have been neglected for whole Centuries; and sure the next Age may justly wonder at this, should they be wanting in what is equally necessary, but of more immediate and general Consequence, the employing them betimes in Labour of all Sorts.

The National Bank, and the Charity Schools in the Highlands, are the only two Societies ever succeeded in that Country. The Spirit of Faction, and Treachery its Companion, Pride and Envy, have ever confounded their Projects for the publick Good.

The private Administration of the Bank upon a Fund of 100,000 l. has, amidst every Vicissitude, maintained a current and unviolated Credit. The frugal Oeconomy of the other, upon a Fund which does not amount to near 10,000 l. has, in a few Years, erected 60 Schools, where a vast Number of People, who before knew neither Right nor Wrong, nor any Thing to distinguish them from Brutes, but Rapine, the Use of Arms, and a blind Obedience to their Chiefs, are instructed in the moral Principles of Christianity, and all the peaceable Vertues of Society.

An Emulation amongst their great Men, fomented by those whose Interest it was to divide them, has infested their Elections their Towns, their Colleges, and their Church. Nor Knowledge, nor Probity, nor Courage, nor Loyalty, nor Vertue, nor Country Love can be Recommendations to Preferment, when an abject fiery Zeal for Names, and the Avarice of Greatness is become the Test of Merit. While it is no more a Question what Services a Man has done, or what Good he is qualified for doing, in order to be employed, but whose Friend, whose Partisan; no Wonder publick Spirit be lost in a sneaking Zealotism, often unrewarded and slighted by them whose Interest and Pleasure it promotes; and even Christianity it self, so far worn out with Contention, that in some Places, for several Years, they have not been in a Temper calm enough for receiving the Sacrament.

Those who have been in the North know, that the Country is cantoned into so many Districts, called *Presbyteries*, each containing 'twixt 12 or 20 Parishes: In every Parish there is a little School, where frequently *Latin* is taught, tho' the Master knows no more of the Matter than the Scholar. In the chief Town there is a tolerable School in Comparison of the rest. In these little Seminaries Boys perplex away their Time in gathering Scraps of *Latin*, which are of no more Use to them in Life than the *Hebrew* they never heard of; while the few Years they have to spare should be taken up in Writing, Accounts, a Grammar, a Dictionary, and Authors, all of the *English* Tongue, Geography, Surveying, Measuring, a short Abridgement of the Statutes, and History of their Country. I only mention what seems more conducive to render the Youth useful to their Friends and Neighbours, in Opposition to misguided Custom, the Tyrant of our Minds and Lives. Were there a few Schools in a Country well established, for teaching the learned Languages to them whose Genius or Circumstances demand a liberal Education, perhaps there would be as many as are useful and Necessary to Society.

The Administrators, rightly chosen and directed, could not mistake the Qualifications most useful to poor Creatures bred at the publick Charge; no Body can think it impracticable to reccommend the greatest Part of the poor Children in each Parish to Masters, after they are taught to read and write; and out of these to chuse some of good Capacity, to learn at a more publick School, what might qualify them for excelling in a beneficial Employment

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suited to their Genius. Thus Masters would be well served, and Trades of all Sorts improve, such having only their Ingenuity and Application to depend upon, after the Commonwealth has once given them a Beginning.

In a few Years Thousands of useless Creatures, who now are the Shame of their Neighbours, and the Pity of Strangers, might earn honest Bread, & make Handicrafts flourish in the Community.

Judicious and faithful Men of all Stations, should be appointed as Trustees for the more effectual Administration of so publick a Good; the Great Courts of the Nation are the best Judges of a right Choice: Let the COLLEGE OF JUSTICE, the Convention of ROYAL BURROWS, elect Five Persons a-piece to form a Society of *Superintendants* for this common Charity, to be changed annually, or as often as they think proper. These may direct and examine their inferior Administrators, and report the Oeconomy, and the Progress of the Whole to their Constituents. To act under these, let another Society of *Overseers* be formed in every District aforesaid, in this Manner: Three Gentlemen of Estates chosen by the Justices of Peace, and a substantial Countryman by the Clergy; a Mayor, an Alderman, and the Head of a Corporation, by the Burrows; the Head and Master of a College to be added to these, in the Seat of an University, to make up a Body of 9 or 12 Men, best acquainted with, and interested in their Country, to oversee and execute so laudable Design. Let these elect a Gentleman, a Farmer, and a Tradesman, for applying and dispensing so much of the Money collected as shall be sufficient for every Parish. This ought to be regulated according to their Extent of Charity in the common Contribution, and the Number of People each contains.

For the more impartial dispensing of Bounty, it were not amiss that every Thing should be transacted by Ballot, upon an Oath of Fidelity. Nor indeed could there be any Fear of their Mismanagement, being of Capacity, and interested in the Success of the Affair: Their Chearfulness and Ability in promoting of it would encourage the Liberal, the Rich, the Powerful and the Good, to support it by Gifts and Legacies: The Farmer, the Artist, the Trader, the Minister, the Scholar, the Gentleman, and the Judge, would all in their Turns be employed in their Christian Trust, this generous Undertaking. These 3 Bodies of Overseers are accountable to one another, and all three, to the most Honoured, most Learned, and most Knowing Societies of the Nation. By their frequent Change, the most considerable Men in the Country shall get an Opportunity of distinguishing their Compassion for the Poor, their Love to their Country, and their Faith to God. I am, *Sir*, &c. *Britannicus.*

Wye's Letter, verbatim, Sept. 24.

No Foreign Mails this Post.

THE Emperor seems to have the D. of Holstein's Interest much at Heart, particularly the Recovery of the Dutchy of Sleswick: Concerning which Accounts are published at Vienna, setting forth, That the K. of Denmark has no Right to that Dutchy. This is thought to be done with Design to reflect on a certain Power who is Guarrantee. But perhaps an Account may be published in a proper Time, shewing what Right the Emperor has to guarrantee the Succession of Bergues and Julieres in the House of Sultzbach, on account of the Elector Palatine's Accession to the Vienna Treaty. The Conditions on which the Electors of Cologn & Bavaria acceded to that Treaty, are not yet made publick. But all the Offers made by the Emperor to the K. of Sardinia, to gain him into that Treaty, have proved ineffectual: And 'tis even said, that his Imperial Majesty has taken a Resolution to assist the Republick of Genoa in Opposition to the Court of Turin, in case the Differences now subsisting between them should come to a Rupture, which is so much apprehended. The King of Sardinia is forming a Camp of 12000 Men not far from Romelina; and the Republick of Genoa are augmenting their Forces in Proportion, and have likewise reinforced the Garrison of Savona and other Places bordering on Piedmont.

We hear the Algerines have signed the Peace with the Dutch.

There is an Account by a Bristol Ship from the W. Indies, That the Ratcliff Capt. Giles Lone, bound to Jamaica, died in his Passage, and all his Crew except five, with about 200 Slaves.

Letters from Lisbon advise, That on the 1st of September, a terrible Earthquake happened at Palermo the Capital of Sicily, by which a 3d Part of that City was destroyed, with about 8000 Persons; That divers Ships and Boats were lost in the Harbour, and much Merchandize belonging to the English, as well as Natives. It was remarkable, that before this wonderful Catastrophe, Mount Etna burnt more violent than usual, and that a prodigious Noise was heard several Days and Nights.

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They write from Dartmouth, That on Tuesday last a Dutch Ship arrived there from Porto Sancto near Madera; she had been fishing for the Wreck of an E. India Ship belonging to the Chamber of Middleburg (lost near two Years since) and had on board a Diver, Mr. Witherhead an Exeter Man: She has got on board 18,000 L. in Silver, taken up by the said Diver off the Rocks. She will shortly proceed to Middleburg.

Interest is making by the Merchants for Colonel Spotiswood, formerly Governor of Virginia, to succeed to the Duke of Portland as Governour of Jamaica; and 'tis hoped, Colonel Philips, Governor of Nova Scotia, will be made Governour of Virginia, reckoned worth 2000 L. per annum.

We hear Abraham Stanyan Esq; our Ambassador at the Porte, has desired to be recalled. A Marriage is on Foot between the Lord Belmont and the Marchioness Dowager of Annandale.

Mr. Poltellis, a French Merchant in this City, having hired the Chance of 20 Tickets for a Day at Half a Crown each, No. 25614, a Prize of 1000 l. fell to him. Alderman Barber is not dead. One Bookseyes of Caermarthen, condemned for counterfeiting the Stamps, is reprieved. He pretends to discover a Gentleman of 700 l. p. Annum concerned therein.

P. S. 'Tis said his Grace the Duke of Hamilton will be made one of the Lords of the Bed-chamber in room of the late Duke of Portland.

From the London Gazette, Sept. 24.

Madrid, Sept. 16. The Duke of Wharton is still here, and has shewn about a Letter from the Pretender, commanding him to set out immediately for Rome, in order to be near his Person, whither he will set out with his Dutchess in a few Days.

Kensington, Sept. 24. Yesterday his Majesty was pleased to sign a Commission, nominating and appointing his Grace James Duke of Hamilton, to be one of the Knights Brethren of the Most Noble Order of the Thistle, in Room of the late Earl of Cadogan, and to grant a Warrant to the Right Honourable the Earl of Findlater and Seafield to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, for investing his Grace with the Ensigns of the said Order: All which has been transmitted to Scotland, where the Duke now is, by Sir David Nairn Secretary of the Order.

Edinburgh, Sept. 29. Yesterday after Noon, the two Gypsies, Pinkerton and Marshal were hang'd in the Grass-market. 'Tis said there was a vast Number of that unhallow'd Tribe about this City all Yesterday, with what View we know not. However, no less than 6 or 7 People were apprehended on Suspicion during the Execution.

¶ There is to be exposed to Sale, at a voluntar Roup, in the House of Baillie John Lesly in Aberdeen the 2d Tuesday October 1726, by 3 a-clock after Noon, a LODGING lying in the Gueftraw in Aberdeen, heritably belonging to Andrew Skeen Elder Surgeon there, lately rebuilt: As also a Row of Building lying in the Hardgate, with a large Yard well fenc'd round with Ditch and Hedge, and barren Planting round the Garden without: The Rent thereof L. 148, As also, upon the last Tuesday of the said Month, Place foresaid, there is to be exposed the Lands of PITMUCKSTANE, belonging to the said Andrew Skene, of L. 420 Scots of yearly Rent, besides a very large Inclosure or Park with a Dry-stone Dike, divided, and Part of it planted with Firs and other barren Planting, and the other Part of it In-Corn Ground, which sows about 24 Bolls, possessed by the Heritor, but never rented; with a convenient Mannour-house, Garden, and a Piece of Meadow-ground, drain'd and inclosed with a Ditch: All lying within a Mile of the City of Aberdeen, holding Feu of the Earl of Aberdeen, for yearly Payment of L. 3 Scots, and L. 40, 10 sh. Money foresaid, to the Old Town College of Teind duty, The Progresses and Conditions of Roup to be seen in the Hands of Patrick Smith of Inver-Ramsay and Thomas Burnet of Kirkhill, Advocates in Aberdeen.

¶ There was stoln, or strayed from the Figget Whins, on the 25th Inst. a light-colour'd Gray Mare with a cut Tail, about Ten Years old, goes much on the Our-side of her hinder Feet; of a middle Size. Whoever can give Notice of the said Mare so as she may be had again, may apply to Mark Haliburton Stabler in Bristo, who will sufficiently reward them, besides their Charges born.

N. B. The Mare was in good Condition, when she went off.

¶ That the Honourable Society of GARDNERS are to conveen at Dumfermling, as usually, within the Kirk thereof, upon the 2d Wednesday, being the 12th, of October 1726, by Ten a-clock before Noon: When and where all the Members are desired to attend, or at least to send their Half-year's Payments and Arrears to the Box, because the Society will have use for Money to pay for a Piece of Ground they have bought.

¶ That on Tuesday the Fourth Day of October next, betwixt the Hours of 2 & 4 in the Afternoon, at the Sheriff-Clerk's Office in Perth; There is to be exposed to voluntary Roup and Sale, a LARGE BEAUTIFUL LODGING lately built, lying on the Side of the River of Tay, and at the North-end of the Water-gate of the Burgh of Perth, almost adjoining to the High Street, a little below the Cross; consisting of 13 Fire-rooms and 3 Storeys, all well finished, besides Closets, Garrets, a Garret-room, Cellars, Vaults and Brewhouse, with an Oven. It hath very regular Entries from the Street, and Office-houses on both Sides, fitted either for Stables or Shops; having Entries from the Street, and private Entries from the Fore-Court, which is a Square, and well pavemented. It has likewise a Back-Court, and several convenient Office-houses there; and betwixt them and the principal House, a Square, with Walks and Plots of Ground for Flowers, which makes the Entry to a very handsom Garden, finely inclosed and planted with choice Trees of the best Kinds; and in the Garden a Summer-house, and Gravel-walks round and a cross it, with a pleasant Terras at the Foot, which gives a View of the River and Salmon-fishings there, and Access from the Garden to the River: Making a very beautiful and convenient Lodging for any Nobleman or Gentleman. The Articles and Conditions of the Roup and Sale, with the Writs, will be seen at all Times, either at the Lodging itself, where the Proprietor dwells, or at the Sheriff Clerk's